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During a recent zoom meeting, I was experiencing a Kafkaesque moment. In the virtual world we now inhibit, I was momentarily struck by the absurdity of Zoom’s gallery view, where participants are arranged in “Hollywood Squares” tiles. I asked myself, “How in the world did we get here?”

As anthropologists, we are acutely aware that human cultures and societies change, and the seemingly rapid changes that we face daily pose some interesting challenges to the existing order of things, even our sense of decorum. Like most chairs, I began the position with a to-do list of things to accomplish during this three-year commitment, some of which have been realized; however, since the last Clan Destiny newsletter, much has happened locally and globally.

As I head into my third year as department chair, these last two years have been a rollercoaster, both life-changing and thought-provoking. In year two of my chairship, the first real major event happened, the Campfire, which would change people’s lives forever, beginning in the early morning hours of November 8, 2018. Faculty, staff, and students were greatly impacted, and our forensic anthropology team and archaeology faculty stepped right in to help in the recovery efforts almost immediately, which will be covered in other sections of this newsletter.
This was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in institutional changes at Chico State and in the CSU system.

Many of us pivoted to online teaching beginning in mid-March 2020, with the fall semester fully online. Faculty participated in a summer Go-Virtual “bootcamp,” learning about the ins and outs of online instruction and the bells and whistles available with emerging technologies. “

Our department and the other 10 departments in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences seem to be coping quite well, but after all, we are social scientists. Just before the COVID about-face, the college was in the planning stages of the “Butte Hall renovation,” of which I participated in a months-long round of meetings for the tear-down and construction of our beloved creaky old building, which by the way, has been listed as the number #2 worst building in the entire CSU system! But as we all know, plans change, and this one has too. The latest scuttlebutt on Butte Hall’s fate is now a total tear-down and a move to a new building where the Physical Sciences building currently resides. Is this the final decision? Hard to say, so stay tuned for further updates. Regardless, the Anthropology Department is chugging along, with all its parts intact and thriving.

We continue to fundraise for the Human ID Lab to bring it into the 21st century as the lab provides critical services to Butte County, the State of California, and beyond. The Archaeology Lab, which we also hope to refurbish, and the Archaeological Research Program are doing as well as expected under the circumstances of the pandemic. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the department was making great strides in NAGPRA repatriation with local tribes; this has slowed a bit but is still ongoing.

The Valene L. Smith Museum has been through several exhibitions, and the museum celebrated its 50th anniversary virtually during the weekend October 9th and 10th 2020. Founded by Keith Johnson in 1970, the museum was another one of his well-timed and prescient visions for the department. The Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology (ALVA) is doing quite well; multiple ALVA films are being broadcast on PBS and are receiving awards.
The Northeast Information Center (NEIC) is as busy as ever, under the management of Ryan Bradshaw, as Amy Huberland retired after many years of dedicated service.

We’ve lost some faculty to their well-deserved retirements, but recent hires and longer-term faculty continue to bring exciting ideas to our department’s program. The memories of former faculty live on in some new courses.

“Dr. Turhon Murad’s legendary “Bigfoot” class has been resurrected as ANTH 264 Myths, Frauds and Misconceptions, which guides our Chico State students into the steppingstones of critical thinking and good science.”

Echoing Dr. Mark Kowta’s class on technology, Dr. Carly Whelan, has taken this course idea and expanded it into ANTH 428, Experimental Archaeology, where students have had loads of good academic fun flintknapping and learning how to process and dry acorns.

On a final note, my ten years of fieldwork and research at Betty’s Hope plantation, Antiqua, culminated in an edited volume published this past March by the University Press of Florida. An Archaeology and History of a Caribbean Sugar Plantation on Antigua features 16 chapters of scholars involved in the project. As with most things, fame and fortune allude most of us in our scholarly anthropological pursuits, but the satisfaction that the work is out there to be shared is satisfying enough.

I am thankful for my Anthropology colleagues, co-workers, and our students, and I am especially grateful to our fabulous ASC, Jeannette Methvin-Terry, who keeps our ship steady. We look to the future with hope, knowing that change is always around the corner, but as anthropologists, we embrace the old with the new as we sail into the future.
The department welcomes new staff to our Anthropology family: Ryan Bradshaw, a Sac State alum, now serves as Coordinator for the Northeast Information Center since 2019 and Ashlyn Weaver, who just completed her MA in Anthropology and was hired at the NEIC in September 2020 as Assistant Coordinator.

We’d like to extend a very warm “welcome back” to Shannon Clinkenbeard who serves as the lab tech for the Human Identification Lab, beginning in July 2019. Bill Loker has returned to the department after serving as Dean of Undergraduate Education. He is now teaching courses in cultural anthropology as part of his Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP)—welcome back Bill!

There comes a time when it’s farewell. After many years of dedicated service, Amy Huberland is now enjoying the fruits of her labor with her recent retirement in May 2020. P Willey is now fully retired, but still volunteering his time in the Human ID Lab when he’s not birding or hiking the mountain trails of Northern California with his wife, Judy.
COMINGS AND GOINGS
Congratulations to our proud parents!

Ashley Kendell and Scott Moosekian celebrated the arrival of Heath Scott Moosekian 8/27/2018.


New arrivals are being celebrated!
**Department Highlights, Promotions & Awards**

**Dr. Jesse Dizard** and Jim Tanimoto appeared on NBC-TV Bay Area to promote the upcoming film *Mr. Tanimoto’s Journey*, May 2018.

**Human Identification Lab’s**, **Dr. Colleen Milligan**, **Dr. Ashley Kendell**, **Dr. Eric Bartelink**, and **Alexandra Perrone** and many anthropology students and alumni were all featured in various news sources regarding their assistance in the Camp Fire, Nov. 2018—May 2019.

**Dr. Colleen Milligan and Dr. Matthew O’Brien** were 2019 University’s Professional Achievement Honors recipients, Mar. 2019.

**Dr. Brian Brazeal** was awarded with one of the 2019 Lantis Endowed University Chairs, Mar. 2019.

**Human Identification Lab** received the CSU, Chico Civic Engagement’s Community Engaged Scholars Award, Mar 2019.

48th Annual Staff Counsel Awards Luncheon recognized **Heather McCafferty** for 10 years of service and **Amy Huberland** for 20 years of service, May 2019.

**Dr. Beth Shook** received the Society for Anthropology in Community College President’s Award at the AAAs. Nov 2018.

**Dr. Jesse Dizard’s** film *Mr. Tanimoto’s Journey* was selected in the 2019 Films of Remembrance Film Festival, Feb 2019.
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS,
PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

Dr. Colleen Milligan and Mallory Peters were invited to speak about the importance of graduate education in the CSU system to the CSU Board of Trustees Meeting in Long Beach, May 2019.

Dr. Carley Whelan, Dr. Ashley Kendell, Dr. Colleen Milligan, Dr. Matt O’Brien, and Dr. Eric Bartelink received a contract project with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, U.S. Department of Defense for a month-long evacuation project in Poland, Summer 2019.

Dr. Eric Bartelink received the Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty Service, Jan. 2020.

ALVA’s *A Walk Through Time*, and *Torn* were reviewed in the Nov. California Archeology Journal, Nov. 2019.

Human Identification Lab was recognized and given an award at the Butte County’s Sherriff/Coroner’s yearly award ceremony for their contribution in the 2018 Camp Fire, Jan. 2019.

Dr. Eric Bartelink, Dr. Ashley Kendell, and Dr. Colleen Milligan and colleagues published an article on forensic anthropology responses in a changing climate in *Anthropology News*, April 2020.

Dr. Eric Bartelink, Dr. Ashley Kendell, Dr. Colleen Milligan, and Dr. P. Willey published a journal article regarding the use of rapid DNA in the identification process for the 2018 Camp Fire in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, May 2020.

Dr. O’Brien was promoted to Associate Professor, May 2020.

Dr. Beth Shook *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology.*

Dr. Georgia Fox *An Archaeology and History of a Caribbean Sugar Plantation on Antigua.*

Dr. Eric Bartelink *New Perspectives in Forensic Human Skeletal Identification.*

Dr. Eric Bartelink *Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice, 2nd edition.*
Films Produced

*When The Smoke Clears*, 26 Minutes. ALVA Productions, 2021. Recovering from the Camp Fire, directed by Georgia Fox. Coming Soon!


*Stolen Paradise*, 26 Minutes. ALVA Productions, 2018 Water in the Owens Valley, directed by Jesse Dizard.

Due to COVID-19, the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology has paused its production of anthropological documentaries because of safety and ethical concerns. Our task now is twofold. We want to make the films we have already produced available free of charge to professors and teachers across the country to enhance their ability to teach online. We also want to collaborate with our colleagues in the Department of Anthropology to produce high-quality audio visual materials for their own online teaching. We’re grateful to have been awarded a Student Learning Fee grant to purchase a new Red Gemini camera, and we can’t wait to put it to good use.
Since the last *Clan Destiny* publication in 2017, the Human Identification Lab (HIL) has had a transformative last few years. The HIL has, as always, been incredibly busy with both casework and recoveries across the State of California. In fact, 2018 turned out to be a record year for the HIL with 120 cases for the year and 20 field recoveries. Above and beyond normal HIL activity, a total of 40 Chico State faculty and staff, students, and alumni responded to the 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County. The team spent a total of 20 consecutive days in the field during this event, assisting with the location and recovery of the 85 victims of the Camp Fire. This represented the single largest deployment in HIL history and the largest anthropological response in the country since 9/11.

The list on the right represents all Chico State personnel who responded to the recovery operations (listed alphabetically by their affiliations in 2018). We’d like acknowledge and wholeheartedly thank all those who participated. We were incredibly proud of the efforts of all to service our community in this capacity.

**CSU Chico Faculty**
- Eric Bartelink
- Ashley Kendell
- Colleen Milligan
- Matt O’Brien
- Beth Shook
- Carly Whelan
- P Willey

**CSU Chico HIL Staff**
- Alexandra Perrone

**CSU Chico Staff**
- Jason Halley

**CSU Chico Undergraduate Students**
- Tiara Clarke
- Melissa Haddock
- Maghan Maberry
- Julia Quintero
- Maya Stuart
- Alina Tichinin

**CSU Chico Graduate Students**
- Jessica Curry
- Jacqueline Galimany
- Leigh Hayes
- Casey Hegel
- Jess Hotaling
- Noel Jones
- Cecily Merwin
- Sam Mijal
- Josh Nowakowski
- Mallory Peters
- Vanessa Reeves
- Alyssa Straub
- Maura Timmons
- Leah Tray
- Karin Wells

**CSU Chico Alums**
- Melanie Beasley
- Lisa Bright
- Kristen Broehl
- Colleen Cheverko
- Shannon Clinkinbeard
- Laura Cirillo
- Kristina Crawford
- Karen Gardner
- Rebecca George
- Danielle Gregory
- Robyn Kramer
- Julia Prince-Buitenhuys
- Walter Sipple
- Crystal Spessard
The Camp Fire represented the second wildfire the HIL assisted with in 2018 with the Carr Fire in Shasta County, occurring three months prior to the Camp Fire. Since that time, much of the HIL’s focus has been working with the State of California to improve the response and preparation for fatal wildfire events through policy planning and training exercises. The HIL received a Service Award from the Butte County Sheriff’s Office for our response to the Camp Fire. In addition, the HIL received the CSU, Chico Civic Engagement’s Community Engaged Scholars Award in March 2019.

Among the many challenges of 2020 was an increase in fire activity again this year. For 2020, the HIL responded to the LNU Complex Fire in August and the Bear Fire/August Complex Fire in September. Our efforts to increase the training associated with these events is ongoing and will continue in the years ahead. The year 2020 also saw the university move to a largely online presence. The HIL represents essential personnel for the State of California and so has continued its operations on campus throughout the last year. Beginning in July and August of 2020, several of our graduate students were able to also continue their work in the HIL and the Stable Isotope Laboratory under strict COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

In Spring/Summer of 2019, HIL Lab Supervisor Alex Perrone (MA ’13) began her studies in Nursing at UC Davis in a new professional career path. Alex had served as the Lab Supervisor from 2014-2019, and while we were sad to see Alex move on, we were excited for her next career. Thank you Alex for all you did as HIL staff and faculty! With Alex’s transition, we welcomed back Shannon Clinkinbeard (MA ‘14) as the HIL Lab Supervisor. Shannon had served in the position from 2006-2013 and returned to the position in 2019. We were incredibly grateful to be able to have such an experienced lab supervisor continue the position.

Colleen Milligan and P Wiley in the HIL.
Greetings from the NEIC! We have been busy (as usual), archiving cultural resources information for Northeastern California. The NEIC is proud to serve as a repository for cultural resources information and provides data for project-related needs. Within the last three years, the NEIC staff has also participated in outreach and education related projects and events as well as conducted work funded through outside grants and contracts.

The NEIC has provided cultural resources information to CALFIRE and PG&E during the Carr, Camp, North Complex, and August Complex fire emergencies. The scope of those fires resulted in an ongoing workload (from November 2018 through October 2020) involving records searches related to timber salvage, fuelbreaks, and other activities. In late 2018, the NEIC entered a data subscription agreement with PG&E to provide cultural resources information pertinent to 10 counties within PG&E's service areas. Additionally, the NEIC received funding to complete the digitization and quality check for Sierra and Plumas counties. Finally, both the Karuk Aboriginal Lands Data Exchange Project and the Bureau of Land Management Data Sharing Project were completed.

This year’s pandemic has also brought many trials and tribulations. During this time, the NEIC was able to transition to a (mostly) virtual platform. We are fortunate to be able to provide our staff with off-site work to continue to maintain historical and archaeological resources records, reports, and maps; integrate new information into the California Historical Resources Inventory System; as well as provide archived information to the private and public sector.
In the spring of 2020, NEIC Coordinator Amy Huberland retired. During her 19 years as Coordinator, Amy helped organize the Jefferson Historical Groups Annual meetings; developed cultural and professional relationships between the NEIC and local Native American tribal groups; as well as served as a liaison for many historical and archaeological organizations throughout the Northern California region. Amy was replaced by Ryan Bradshaw, who received his MA from CSU Sacramento.

In the summer of 2020, we were proud to hire Ashlyn Weaver, a former intern and Student Laboratory Assistant, as the NEIC Assistant Coordinator. Ashlyn graduated from CSU Chico with her MA in Anthropology.

We have been tracking some of our past staff and students and have updates on their careers. Cecily Merwin, a former NEIC intern and staff, has received her MA in Anthropology from CSU Chico. Cecily currently works for the Forest Service. Katherine Jorgenson, former intern and staff, is currently working on completing her MA in Anthropology from CSU Chico. Katherine currently works for Caltrans. Susan Whaley, former intern and Student Assistant, is currently working with the Forest Service. Noel Jones, former staff, received her MA in Anthropology from CSU Chico. Noel is currently working with the Forest Service. Kyle Deutsch, former GIS Specialist, is currently a GIS Specialist for Far Western Anthropological Research Group.

Current NEIC staff include: Dr. Carly Whelan, Faculty Coordinator; Ryan Bradshaw, Coordinator; Ashlyn Weaver, Assistant Coordinator; Robert McCann, Kyle Piercy, Casey Hagel, and Kathrine Larrance, Research Assistants.

For more information regarding the NEIC, student internships, or conducting research, please contact Ryan Bradshaw at (530) 898-6256 or neinfocntr@csuchico.edu

Image courtesy of Jason Halley.
Museums around the world have closed to the public due to the global pandemic. The Department’s museum, the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology is no different. In 2020, however, closed really can mean the opposite. In fact, the museum faculty, staff and students opened the museum virtually, building a 21st-century museum identity for the campus and community to enjoy.

The museum’s virtual presence began with the first online exhibition creatively engineered by Assistant curator and Anthropology Dept. alumna, Heather McCafferty. She transformed the Unbroken Traditions exhibit, curated by graduate students Meegan Sims and Coral Doyle, that honors the basketweaving of expert Maidu Lilly Baker and her family. The interactive show is available on the museum’s website and it will stay up indefinitely.

The virtual reality continued with Earth Day 2020, as the three campus museums, Gateway, Turner, and Smith crosspollinated their webpages with ecological activities, videos, lectures, and awareness to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. These educational activities and links remain on the museum’s webpage.

The successes of these two programs yielded confidence to offer the annual Summer Camp via Zoom- something even elementary and middle school children are mastering. Curator, Adrienne Scott says, “The camp motto has always been: Travel the world without leaving home. This year it was really true.” Enlisting a troupe of educators and presenters from around the globe, participants, went to Valencia to see cave art and experience the Las Fallas Festival, met up with a DC comics superhero author, travelled to Adelaide, Australia, to see Koala and Roo recovery efforts after the wildfires, and local ceramicist, Preston Lawson, gave a lesson on pinch pot basics with clay delivered to local Chicoans’ doorsteps.
Museum summer camp went virtual in 2020.

The Zoom room experience provided an opportunity for children to participate beyond the local environment. Alumna Kim Cobb specializes in museum education and designed multiple downloadable enrichment worksheets to augment each daily camp! Participants joined from Sacramento, Oroville, the Bay Area, Mount Shasta, and even Montana! Camp this year literally zoomed the museum beyond its borders.

As summer progressed, the pandemic claimed lives, exposed the rifts in our healthcare, and ripped open for all to see, the chronic persistence of racism and other injustices in American society. It became more clear to the museum team that the museum must wrestle with these issues openly.

This was realized by professor and Co-Director, Dr. William Nitzky, who conceived of the first virtual exhibition to be the focus of the Fall ANTH 467 exhibit research, design and installation course.

The virtual exhibit, titled *Epidemics of Injustice*, explores the social aspect of epidemics, and how they are mediated by class, ethnicity, and race. Students worked with a focus group of community members organized by Julia Yarbourough, local morning news anchor, to make sure the issues addressed in the exhibition carry the voices and impacts of our surroundings.
With this exhibit, Anthropology and Chico State students are adding to their dossier of marketable skills in online exhibition design and development. The virtual exhibit will open in March 2021. A virtual lecture series and virtual school tours will engage the community in this timely and powerful topic.

Creating virtual exhibits shows how much the museum has gown over the years.

In fact, on October 10, 2020, the campus celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology in conjunction with the Alumni Office’s Homecoming Alumni Weekend Event. Dr. Eddie Vela, Dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Jay Friedman, Executive Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement joined the festivities that celebrated the innovative, audacious dream of Keith Johnson, Anthropology faculty emerita.

Keith Johnson founded the museum and opened its first exhibition in February of 1970. The afternoon really honored and recognized his public, all of whom share their stories and learn with us about our collective histories and futures. Assistant curator and Museum Studies alumna, Heather McCafferty coordinated the two-day event, and made a video currently on the museum’s YouTube page for those who were unable to attend.

Dr. Valene Smith and museum founder, Keith Johnson.

Diana Castellanos was one of 12 students to be honored as a recipient of the 37th Annual Lt. Robert Merton Rawlins Merit Award, Feb. 2019.

Christina Quigley received a Fulbright award to study in Tanzania, Mar. 2019.

Angelina Zuri Bazzell-O’Balles received the Jackie Faris-Rees Student Leadership Award, May 2019.

Valerie Olivares and Diana Castellanos received the Wells Fargo Community Service Award, May 2019.

Sam Mijal received the Rick Rees Unsung Hero Award, Apr. 2019.

At the 2019 Society for California Archaeology Meeting, Noel Jones won Outstanding Student Paper and Kristina Crawford (alumni) won the Bennyhoff Award for research, Mar 2019.
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS & AWARDS

The 15th Annual Chico Forensic Conference received the Event/Program of the Year Award from the Student Organization and Leadership Education, Apr. 2019.

Taylor Lambrigger was featured in Daily Republic Solano County’s News for participating in teaching 120 cadets at the Public Safety Academy, Jan. 2020.

Austin Dietrich and Enkhbayar Oyuntsetseg were awarded for Best Student Poster, “Determining Whether Open Pit Fired Ceramics Are Consistent With Owens Valley Brownware” by the Society for California Archaeology Meeting board, Mar. 2020.

Sara Carmody was awarded one of the 2020 Outstanding Research Projects in Anthropology Award, and was also nominated and received Honorable Mention for the 2020 Glenn Kendall Public Service Award, Mar. 2020.

Bonnie Lloyd was selected as the 2019 BSS Commencement Student Speaker, May 2019.

Ashlyn Weaver was the 2020 Masters Virtual Commencement Ceremony student graduate speaker.

Watch the 2020 Virtual Awards Presentation for Anthropology Students.
Dr. Eric Bartelink, Faculty since 2006

Dr. Bartelink finished his 15th year with the Department of Anthropology! Eric, Amy, and Malia are enjoying their new pup Bear, an over-sized golden doodle with a tremendous amount of energy. In 2019, Eric and his family enjoyed a nice trip to Florida and to Oahu for some much needed rest and relaxation. Eric had a productive sabbatical leave in the Fall 2019 semester, and did his best to avoid campus.

In 2019, Eric finished his term as the President of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology and rotated off the ABFA board of directors. He also completed his term on the board of directors for the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. In 2020, Eric rejoined the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (under the National Institute of Standards and Technology). In 2019, Dr. Bartelink received the Ellis Kerley Award from the Anthropology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the CSU-wide 2020 Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty Service, and the 2020 Central Michigan University College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award of Distinction. In Fall of 2019, he traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to participate in a workshop funded through the International Committee of the Red Cross to develop forensic methods for identifying deceased migrants.

Eric recently co-authored the second edition of *Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice* with Angi Christensen and Nicholas Passalacqua, published through Elsevier/Academic Press. He is a co-editor with P. Willey (CSU, Chico), Colleen Milligan (CSU, Chico), and National Park Service archaeologist Peter Gavette on a volume titled *Bones by the Bay: History, Archaeology, and Bioarchaeology of Nineteenth Century Anatomized Skeletons at Point San Jose, San Francisco* (to be published by University Press of Florida in 2021).


“Death Along the Tracks: The Role of Forensic Anthropology and Social Media in a Homicide Investigation” for *Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology: Bonified Skeletons*, edited by Heather Garvin and Natalie Langley (2019, CRC/Routledge). He also lead authored “Recent Advances in the Application of Isotope Analysis to Forensic Anthropology” with Lesley Chesson for *Forensic Sciences Research* (2019),
Like everyone, Nette and Frank had some ambitious plans for 2020, most of which were derailed or modified due to the pandemic. Trips to exotic places, visits with distant family and professional meetings were changed or delayed to avoid COVID-19. Both of us are approaching 70 and in the at-risk categories. So, for the most part, we have been isolated up in the mountains at our place outside Chico, tending our dogs, goats, and chickens since February until now (mid-October). This is fun, rewarding and lots of work! We have been able to get out hiking regularly with the dogs on trails above Cohasset, and Frank has been setting up the game cam to see who comes visiting. In late May, a mountain lion came to check out a chicken that had died; Frank still finds natural history and ecology fascinating! Nette has found a new love of her life. It is a black lab named Coal. She walks him every morning along with all the other dogs, but he is special! Frank says the three pillars of Nette’s dog training philosophy are maximum freedom, unconditional love, and over-feeding! In the spring, Frank became aware that testing had detected a significant aneurysm in the aorta root next to his heart. He conferred with the surgeon who heads the Cardiac and Vascular Center at the Stanford Medical School and plans were made to repair it. Frank had open heart surgery in mid-August 2020, and received a new dacron aorta into which they sewed his salvaged aortic valve. He was in the Stanford Hospital for seven days in intensive care while Nette dutifully watched over him. Frank has been slowly recovering and is walking regularly while listening to podcasts. It has been two months since the surgery as of this writing and Nette thinks Frank is recovered due to how much he is now irritating her.

Both Nette and Frank want to thank all those who sent cards, healing sentiments and prayers. These were all very much appreciated! Frank views the detection, consultation, and subsequent surgery in addition to the pain as something of a miracle. May God bless you all.
Dr. Ariane Bélanger-Vincent has been teaching in the Department of Anthropology since fall 2015. She teaches such courses as Applied Anthropology, Anthropology of Food, Cultural Anthropology, International Development and Globalization, Language and Culture, and Power Violence, and Inequality. In addition, she teaches a method class as well as a class on theories of justice in the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice. With her method class, she likes to say she brings qualitative methods outside of the discipline.

Dr. Vincent earned her Ph.D. from Université Laval (Québec City, Canada) in June 2016. Her doctoral research examined global policy-making processes relating to humanitarian intervention. From the material developed in her dissertation, she published an article in *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* in June 2020, which examines informal practices of diplomacy. The title is “‘Bypass the UN’: Diplomatic Practices and Change in Multilateral Settings.”

Dr. Vincent continues her research on the worldwide implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. More specifically, she looks at the ways in which women are increasingly recruited to clear landmines. Framed in discourses of equality between genders and development, “gender mainstreaming in mine action” has become central to the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

After a summer in Thailand in 2017, she spent the summer of 2018 between Geneva and London, thanks to a Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Grant. Geneva is the worldwide capital of mine action, where many global organizations are headquartered. Dr. Vincent understood important aspects of the policy-making process, and was able to develop a wide network of actors involved in the implementation of the treaty.

Since May 2018, Dr. Vincent has regularly attended the meetings of the states parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. These meetings are central to implementation and allowed her to pursue her explorations of the ways in which international instruments actually work. As many informants told Dr. Vincent, the process that led to the signing of the Mine Ban Treaty was actually easy. Once you have the instrument, they told her, a lot of work is required to keep it alive and that is when the hard work is needed. She is working on figuring this out.

Dr. Vincent’s research and teaching were slowed down with the birth of her second child in March 2019. Thomas Vincent Brazeal is an adorable boy with a serious gaze but a smiling face. His big sister Daphné, 7, is very proud.
Dr. Brian Brazeal has had to defer his sabbatical because of global restrictions on travel. He has dedicated himself to helping students thrive in these difficult times. He is excited to collaborate with his colleagues to produce excellent audio-visual resources for online learning.

Dr. Jesse Dizard was the CSU International Programs Resident Director for Study Abroad in France during the academic year 2019-2020. He was responsible for all aspects of student living experience and academics for a cohort of 26 students from throughout the CSU system. Eight students lived in Paris and took courses at one or more universities there, and the rest were in Aix en Provence at Aix Marseille University. Dr. Dizard lived in the medieval heart of Aix about 30 miles from Marseille, commuting to his offices in the 17th century “new” part of town, a full six minutes away on foot. He divided his time between Provence and Paris, as circumstances demanded.

The corona virus pandemic forced the program to be suspended as of March 17, 2020, and he returned to Chico on extremely short notice. Beware the Ides of March! On a happier note, also in March, Dr. Dizard’s chapter “Seeing Fez” on the infamous tour guides of Fez, Morocco, was published in the new volume, *Front and Back Stage of Tourism Performance*, F. Reimer, ed. (Routledge 2020). In June, the film he directed and produced about toxic drinking water in the San Joaquin Valley, *Muerte Silenciosa* was also completed. It was broadcast on KVIE PBS TV Sacramento in July. In August KIXE PBS TV Redding broadcast four of Dr. Dizard’s films, one on each Tuesday of the month: *Stolen Paradise, Treading Water, Muerte Silenciosa*, and *Mr. Tanimoto's Journey*. The films were rebroadcast online Thursday evenings and Dr. Dizard participated in an online discussion following each film. In September *Muerte Silenciosa* was selected to be screened as part of the 2020 Eugene Environmental Film Festival, where it won the People’s Choice Award. Jesse is looking forward to an exciting year ahead, planning for his next film project, meeting the challenges of online instruction, and to making the best of these trying times by baking pizza, eggplant parmesan, and going fishing.
Is 2020 hindsight? We hope so! David Eaton trusts this reaches you and your family well and thriving, despite the challenges of this past year. Sometimes Eaton drifts into the first person, writing this in late November, feeling relief, what with, among other things, the start of the rains in Chico, the end of the fire season, and the announcement of several promising COVID-19 vaccines. Most welcome developments indeed.

He thinks to himself: back in March we were tossed willy-nilly into the cauldron of online “education” (read “life”), and - we prevailed!

Well, mostly, anyways, delivering improvised classes to those students who were able to take advantage of them. We got through it, most of us, with compassion and flexibility and imagination, though also with sorrow and regret for those who have lost family members and friends and livelihoods and opportunities to the pandemic.

As Clan Destiny readers know, experts (by this he means – anthropologists!) have established that humans are a remarkably adaptable and resilient species. (Further research is needed, of course; how else will we get grants?) While that is proving unfortunate for the rest of the biosphere, mostly, we saw some benefits to this in the turbulent months of April and May, and continuing today. In-person meetings? How quaint! And local! And, heavens, so inefficient! Tell us Grandpa - what they were like?

After the spring avalanche, though, our university mobilized as well as we could have, Eaton thinks, for this fully virtual fall semester. Especially valuable to him and many other faculty was our summer ‘Go Virtual’ intensive workshop series on quality online technologies, resources, and curricula, led by our redoubtable team at TLP (Technology and Learning Potentates, as we call them). Between these stimulating online workshops (which convened dozens and hundreds of our faculty in joint ventures through each day) and conversations with – surprise! - friendly neighbors, Eaton actually met and enjoyed many more interesting new acquaintances than he usually does here.

Overall, the summer months in Chico were—for Eaton anyway—something of an Arcadian interlude. Edward Abbey might have approved. There were quiet streets, people walking and biking everywhere, collective gardens, and a new warmth and neighborliness at our apartment complex. And a comet! This latter is projected to return around 9000 AD, which spurs some of us to try to imagine what social life will be like then.
Eaton takes comfort in the thought that, however it may look, we may be stripped of some of the hubris that we moderns have cultivated, and in closer contact with the daily rhythms and beauties of the natural world. But - ¿quién sabé? And anyway, you and he will be dead then, probably.

In the present moment, though, Eaton thinks that what students need is a laptop, a reliable internet connection, time to themselves, and a quiet place to study – and with these they can make the most of extraordinary opportunities across the university and beyond. To him it seems that many students have upped their game – coming much better prepared this fall, and ready to learn. They have to be more serious about their education now, stripped as it is to some of its intellectual components, and in early 21st century California, Eaton thinks this is not entirely a bad thing. Don’t harsh on him right away about this view though! He knows they are missing key dimensions of social life, and that many of us may regard the “normalcy” of *American Graffiti* as a birthright, but, you know, having been a visitor at the University of Kisangani, in the former Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo), where students were living eight to a room in burnt-out concrete shells of buildings amidst grass growing over their heads, crouching to cook outside on charcoal grills and shaking their fists at government planes passing overhead – Eaton thinks we are still doing okay.

Indeed, it seems to him that it is only now beginning to dawn on most of us how wide open and powerful online collaboration can be. For example, he’s now part of the university’s nascent COIL program (for Collaborative Online International Learning), led by Sara Trechter and Jenn Gruber of International Studies, looking to integrate international and cross-cultural online components into his courses. He’s been part of a number of recent Zoom conferences spanning several continents, with live simultaneous video meetings with colleagues from South Africa, The Philippines, China, Denmark, Mexico, and Ecuador—all at one time, face to face, with comfortable and engaging conversation. It’s as easy as Zooming with your cousins these days (maybe easier; he doesn’t know your cousins).

There are huge downsides for professors and intellectual life as well of course – Eaton has been corresponding, for example, with William Townsend, a distinguished alumnus of our Museum Studies graduate program, who has advocated fiercely for online education as a democratizing and empowering force, while Eaton objects vigorously in every way he can think of, not always successfully. It’s crucial, Eaton thinks, that professors continue to “profess” their field comprehensively as their life work, and to be valued and rewarded for it, and to know their students well, and not to be relegated to assisting in video watch parties when they’re not devising asynchronous online assignments that are rampantly cheated on by faceless enrollees who experience classes as particularly stodgy YouTube channels.
(Cheating, as we once called it – a big topic to be dealt with these days... stay tuned, he says. Carthago delenda est!)

Of course there are a thousand problems brought by the pandemic, and in-person gatherings are essential for a good life and full exchange of experience – Eaton gets it. After all, he’s a social and cultural anthropologist, and he chose to live in the Congo basin for a time, where they’ve been refining such activities for millennia. But he’s relieved and delighted to report that he’s found a great deal to like in online classes. He used to develop music software, he’s technophilic, by and large, and he enjoys working out of a home studio, so he finds it exhilarating to create and learn side-by-side with our university’s technical professionals, who are enabling and connecting us all in new ways of incredible scope and flexibility.

More specifically, the precision and clarity of Zoom, and of cascades of other newly-arrived and rapidly-evolving social information technologies, means that classes can now be run well and powerfully in live “synchronous” settings, even in larger lecture courses. Eaton thinks such synchronous gatherings are crucial for helping maintain our tattered ‘public sphere’, in the Habermasian sense, in our democracy and in the larger world.

With these new technologies, there’s so much one can convey, facilitate, and exchange by zeroing in live collectively on textual passages; discussing video clips; sharing comments, links, and resources in chat; collaborating in breakout rooms in small-group exercises; and enjoying individuals emerging as personalities and thinkers as one engages over time in conversation with every student together at once directly face-to-face. And as a bonus - classes are then available online in full recorded form for review, and for those who couldn’t attend the session! For lab-based and some experiential classes, of course, there are huge problems, but for serious students in other intellectually-oriented fields, there are many new opportunities, and few limits. Having a graduate student as a “co-pilot” in larger classes is a huge boon, thinks Eaton, and he thanks our department for supporting this well. He’s been fortunate this fall to work in Human Cultural Diversity with Archaeology third-year graduate student Kyle Palazzolo. Kyle has counselled and accompanied and backstopped and filled in and led by turns, in our shared course project that assembles most of our students every class present with cameras on, thank you! It’s a lively and media-packed interactive virtual classroom, comparable in these vital ways to smaller classes.

Oh, and intellectual content – Eaton almost forgot! Each term in Human Cultural Diversity (Anth 113), he and his ISAs put revised and finer points on studies of hominin evolution, Neolithic and industrial revolutions, and climate change and biodiversity collapse, while also immersing students in newly available video materials that supplement canonical works of social and cultural anthropology, from Bronislaw Malinowski and Margaret Mead to Nancy
He’s also loving his Africa: Continuity and Change (Anth 376) class, as there are increasingly innumerable new online free video resources that hugely expand how he can introduce, illustrate, and explore what is—to most of our students—an unfamiliar continent of unknown worlds.

In our capstone History of Method and Theory (ANTH 496), Eaton takes a long-term perspective on anthropological discourse in Western traditions, tracing some of its origins in ancient thought from The Iliad and Herodotus to Deuteronomy and Tacitus, before exploring nomadic and Islamic traditions in counterpoint to humanist and Enlightenment achievements of early modern Europe. This sets students up to encounter the so-called “New World” in works of Jean de Léry, Bartolomé De Las Casas, Alexis de Tocqueville, Franz Boas, and Claude Lévi-Strauss, while giving deep context to the emergence of 20th-century Anglo-American Anthropology in a larger world of social thought encompassing luminaries such as Sigmund Freud, Georg Simmel, Marcel Mauss, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Zora Neale Hurston. Toward the end of the course, Renato Rosaldo, Roger Sanjek, and Dorinne Kondo provide late-century critical takes on the pluralizing priorities of our discipline, but the course also emphasizes how area studies remain essential to serious research, using the example of equatorial Africa, and what Anthropology has to contribute to mitigating intensifying problems of biotic impoverishment in human-dominated ecosystems at a planetary level.

In Medical Anthropology (Anth 435), a smaller once-a-week evening seminar, students are introduced to a phenomenological, critical, and comparative medical anthropology, with authors including Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Rafael Campo, Mircea Eliade, Nadia Seremetakis, Mike Davis, Margaret Lock, Emily Martin, Nancy Chen, René Devisch, Sara Lewis, Seth Holmes, and Tanya Luhrman. You remember these folks, surely! Key foci include Richard Katz’s account of !Kung San “boiling energy”; Shirley Lindenbaum’s Kuru Sorcery; principles of Chinese and Indic medical systems; African understandings of illness, and corresponding healing institutions; Paul Farmer and Jim Yong Kim’s visions of global health; T. R. Reid’s The Healing of America; the Book of Job; Nancy Scheper-Hughes’s Death Without Weeping; and Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg’s Righteous Dopefiend.

And finally, in the Core Seminar (Anth 600), Eaton welcomes our new graduate students with close study of key authors and texts in the history of anthropological thought across the subdisciplines—from Aristotle to Carl von Linné, Jean-Pierre Lamarck, Alfred Russel Wallace, and Charles Darwin in the life sciences; from Marshall Sahlins and Victor Turner to Jacques Lacan and Terrence Deacon in the theorization of symbols in human social life; from W. H. R. Rivers and Jan Vansina to Steven Mithen and Pat Kirch to in linguistic and archaeological studies of long-term societal change; from Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Max Weber to Michel Foucault and Michael Taussig on political economy and the
limits of reason; from Camillo Sitte and Le Corbusier to David Harvey and Charles Jencks on modern and post-modern architecture and urban planning; and from Norman Myers’s and Luisa Maffi’s recent studies of disappearing biological and cultural diversity to Donna Haraway’s ideas on companion animals and Anna Tsing’s experiments in her Feral Atlas project.

We’ll all be grateful to see the end of this pandemic, opines Eaton, but we all can see more challenges ahead, and universities will never be as they were. We hope we’re learning crucial lessons and skills that will help us manage better the years to come, for our sakes and those of all the beings with whom we share this planet. Homo sapiens—crown of creation or life’s little joke—if you’re listening, let us continue to adapt! Collectively, intelligently, appropriately, inclusively, compassionately.

Michael Findlay has been retired since 2015. He and Denise lost their home in Paradise and are awaiting the building of their new house in Chico. Mike has been busy though. Since his retirement, he has published two textbooks with Cognella Academic Publishing: A Survey of Language and Culture: Linguistic Anthropology and Cross-cultural Communication and Cultural Traditions of Ancient Mesoamerica. Mike has also written three novels: The Trail to Tlaxiaco; The Tribe in the Red Brick House; and The Trial of Juan de la Cruz. The Trial to Tlaxiaco is available via Kindle Direct Publishing. The other two novels will be available soon on that same platform.

Mike and Denise are doing well despite all the calamity going on. They hope to be out from under the COVID pandemic so they can once again travel. Hello to everyone!

Keith with wife Karen and son Chris continue to restore the Chico Chinese Temple in the Chico History Museum even though the magnificent altars have been installed. New information keeps coming to light, so it is about time to revise the 2013 book, Golden Altars: A Visual Tour of Chico’s Chinese Temple. Over the past couple of years, Keith has been analyzing archaeological materials from Antelope Cave excavated in 1959. He has just completed a paper on this research titled "Sandals and the Basketmaker Occupation of Antelope Cave, Arizona.".
Tom and Kimie have moved again. They are now in a one-story house only three blocks from the largest hospital in Sonoma County. The new house gives Kimie a dedicated sewing/art room and more garden space than before. Tom got an office twice the size of his last one. Research and writing continues, though conference presentations are limited to virtual ones without the personal contact that makes attendance so much fun. Three papers have been published in medical journals since the last Clan Destiny, with four more in various stages of completion. Two new research projects are just getting started. There is no chance of boredom in the near future. Life is still exciting, despite the pandemic.

Lately, Mark has been concerned with expanding and enriching our archaeologically-informed understanding of Maidu culture history by bringing to bear other sources such as linguistics, ethnological theory, geography, folklore and mythology. This has entailed studying Maidu grammar and word construction, developing a chronology of Maidu creation accounts, and reviewing aspects of world views such as concepts of time and space for evidence of culture change. Also, importantly, it has required the crafting of an approach to interpreting Maidu creation accounts, as products of competitive story-telling in which metaphors are used to reflect on historical developments. Already some interesting results have emerged; hopefully more will be forthcoming.

Severe back problems have hindered Mark from pursuing research for the past year, but recently he has been enjoying a return to his studies. Mary (MA, 1986) and Mark celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary this past May.

It has been a busy two years since the last Clan Destiny! Since 2018, Dr. Ashley Kendell has settled into the department and the Human Identification Lab. Three years in and I have taught nine new courses and taken over as the Coordinator for the department’s Certificate in Forensic Science. Teaching and advising has allowed me to work closely with dozens of undergraduate and graduate students and it has been fun mentoring students interested in pursuing a career in forensic science. In 2019, I also became a POST (Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified instructor, and in the last two years, I have taught forensic anthropology and archaeological methods to dozens of new detectives throughout the state of California. In addition to teaching Chico State students and through POST, I have also had the opportunity to analyze more than a dozen cases,
have led instructional courses for local Search and Rescue groups, and assisted in numerous search and recoveries. Additionally, I am currently working on an edited volume focusing on wildfire victim recovery and identification that has been accepted by CRC Press. Recent wildfires across the state of California speak to the need for such a volume and my co-authors and I hope to contribute to the greater good by developing a resource to improve the state’s mass fatality planning and response systems.

**Bill Loker**  
**Faculty 1970–2021**

Many of the younger readers of Clan Destiny probably don’t recognize my name. But for the older, veteran Anthropology grads, maybe this is a Blast from the Past! I am happy to say that I am back in the department after 12 years of intensive fieldwork in the groves of academe. From 2004-2018, I was doing research among the deans, provosts, VPs, and professional staff of Chico State. My title was Dean of Undergraduate Education. My avocation was, as always, anthropologist. So what did I discover during my fieldwork?

I found that there are very smart, big-hearted, compassionate people all across campus, in a variety of departments and roles, all of whom are working really hard for the best for the university, as they see it, and for the success of students. Don’t get me wrong, this is not some Pollyannaish view of the goodness of all people. Because there are slouches, connivers, free-riders and schemers along with the hard workers, the devoted and the dreamers. The great thing about my sojourn as dean was that I was able to choose (largely) who I worked with—the devotees and the dreamers rather than the free-riding schemers. And we were able to move the rock uphill with the *Joy of Sisyphus* (Camus), balancing precariously in place for some time. In other words, I think we were able to do some good.

In the process, I did what academics do: I presented at conferences, published in journals and edited volumes, and found kindred spirits—a surprising number of whom were anthropologists—working similarly in universities across the land. Fun!

Since coming back to the department, I put some of my learning of the past 12 years to work teaching an experimental U-Course. What is a U-Course? A U-Course redesigns two general education courses to blend them into a seamless educational experience using inquiry-based learning, public sphere pedagogy, and a communities of practice approach that views learning as a social process of shared
In my case in Fall 2018, I taught ANTH 113, Human Cultural Diversity in combination with Freshman Composition and in Fall 2019 I taught ANTH 116, Power, Violence and Inequality, again with Freshman Composition. In both cases, my teaching partner was that devotee of student success, Dr. Thia Wolf (English), together with a teaching team of two graduate assistants and eight peer mentors, recruited and trained by the First-Year Experience Program.

The class serves primarily, but not exclusively, first-generation and low income students. The design and implementation of the class was a tremendous intellectual challenge, teaching it was hard work, but the results in both semesters were sweet. Students excelled, enjoyed and learned – about anthropology, ethnography, writing, the university and about themselves.

Like pretty much everyone else this semester, I am teaching online. Regrettably, no U-Course, though I am not sure how it would translate into an online environment. Maybe next Fall. I continue to find new challenges teaching—both in terms of the online format and new preparations. (When you’ve been out of the classroom for 13 years everything is new! Maybe this is why they have me teaching the History of Anthropology!) Most of all, I have enjoyed the student contact that comes with teaching, as well as getting to know the newer faculty that have joined the department in the last several years. You’ll be happy to know, they are a great bunch of folks. (But you already knew that, right?) Teaching online is a bit disappointing in terms of student contact—it’s all through a zoom screen—but I am incredibly impressed with the resilience, grit, and determination of our students. Yes, there are more crises than ever: bandwidth limitations, fire evacuations, smoke inhalations, alienation and, yes, students testing positive for COVID-19. But most students are pushing through the troubles and working, learning, and giving it their best. I feel privileged to be a part of it.

Oh, and send money to the department. The needs are great and it will be put to good use in the support of students and faculty. Really.

Heather’s work at the museum has expanded to include coordinating the museum’s annual In Focus Film Festival as well as overseeing annual graduate student exhibitions. In addition, Heather oversees the museum’s fundraising events, including two annual Bazaar Sales, which have become campus favorites and this year’s Virtual 50th Anniversary GALA. Integrating sustainability into her work at the museum whenever possible is her passion. Heather enjoys camping, birding, hiking and biking with her husband Paul and son Sammy.
Jeannette has been with us seven years now and she has become a solid staple within the department. We appreciate how much she does for each of us. This year she and her husband Nathan celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary in LA to see Broadway’s *Escape to Margaritaville*. It was their first parent-only vacation in many years. Their three kids keep them busy. Merissa is now a sophomore in high school, Johnny a freshman in high school, and Mia is a second grader. When not locked in at home avoiding COVID, the family often keeps us entertained with fun family stories of their many adventures in camping, travel, amusement parks, band events, and BSA Scouting (Nathan, Assistant Scout Leader, and Merissa, now Senior Patrol Leader, established Chico’s 1st all-female BSA troop).

Colleen (and her husband Jon) have had a busy couple of years with the biggest new development being Jon’s move to Chico High School to teach computer science and robotics in the Fall of 2020. Colleen has maintained her position as Graduate Coordinator with the department, but she also became Co-Director of the Human Identification Lab (HIL) in 2017 and a board-certified diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology in Spring 2020. Like her colleagues, she has seen the HIL’s casework rise significantly in the intervening time. The rise in casework and responses to mass disasters events has also led to a number of research projects, presentations, and publications in the last few years. All of which have involved Chico State faculty, staff, students, and alumni. One of the recent research projects was a contract project with the Department of Defense for a WWII excavation in Poland in the Summer of 2019. Colleen partnered with Drs. Carly Whelan, Ashley Kendell, Matt O’Brien, and Eric Bartelink to coordinate the project. The Department of Defense is one of the biggest employers of forensic anthropologists and archaeologists in the country, so the opportunity to expose seven graduate students to the methodology used by the DoD for field excavations was one of the purposes of the project.

Most of the presentations and publications have revolved around the HIL’s increasing role in the response to wildfires in California. Dr. Kendell and Milligan organized a symposium at the 2020 American Academy of Forensic Sciences that
highlighted response to the 2018 Camp Fire and the lessons learned from that response. It not only involved professionals throughout California involved in wildfires but also featured research from both graduate students and alumni on the subject.

Outside of work, Colleen’s role as the Head Coach for the Chico State Rowing team has continued. Colleen was named the Club Sports Coach of the Year in 2019 and 2020. Those recognitions are largely due to the success the team has had in the classroom. The rowing team has one of the highest average GPAs (average is 3.1) among club sports at Chico State and the lowest length of time to graduation (average is 4 years). In addition, the women’s team sent an eight-person boat to club sport nationals for the first time in 2019 and finished the season ranked 9th in the nation.

Dr. William (Will) Nitzky, Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Co-Director of the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, has been active on and off campus working to create high impact learning environments for students across Chico State. In summer 2016, Will secured funding to continue his research on ethnic heritage management in China. This time a Chico State undergraduate student, Tanner Hansen, accompanied him on the trip to produce the documentary film *Bang the Drum*. The project took them from Beijing, the nation’s capital, to rural southwest China to film how the cultural heritage of the 2,000-year-old bronze drum is enveloped in different claims of meaning, function, and protection. The film traces the complicated life of the bronze drum from its ancient significance as a symbol of wealth to its continued use today as a sacred device for ceremonies and as a secular tool for tourism performances by the ethnic Yao minority. Will and Tanner interviewed Chinese scholars and museum professionals, village leaders, local experts, and artisans to include a diversity of perspectives on bronze drum heritage. As Will’s directorial debut, the documentary *Bang the Drum* completed at CSU, Chico in the Advanced Laboratory of Visual Anthropology (ALVA), is available online and is planned to screen at the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology’s In Focus Film Festival, PBS stations in Redding, California and Illinois, as well as the Weltsmuseum in Vienna, Austria in Fall 2020.

Among the many presentations at regional and national conferences on his research, Will was invited to the Wenner Gren, British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, and the Smithsonian Institute sponsored workshop “Borders: Museums in the Age of Mobility” in 2018 to present on the proliferation of museums in China in the Post-Mao era.

Dr. William Nitzky and Tanner Hansen filming the documentary *Bang the Drum* in southern China.
The year 2020 started off promising as Matt was promoted to Associate Professor, but by March the wheels came off with the arrival of COVID-19. Like all of us, the pandemic led to drastic changes to Dr. O’Brien’s summer plans. His ongoing excavations with folks at the University of Wyoming at the La Prele Mammoth site were postponed due to travel and research restrictions. Fortunately, the National Science Foundation allowed his team to postpone the start of their new multi-year grant until next year.

Closer to home, the cancellation of the Archaeology Field School and the Archaeological Research Program also led to the

In addition to classroom related activities that enhance the synergy of research and teaching, Will spearheaded an exciting new Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program with Dr. Tony Waters and Dr. Chunyan Song, professors in the Department of Sociology. The study abroad program, Highland Peoples of Southeast Asia, launched in summer 2019 helped bring Chico State students to Thailand and China to experience the rich ethnic diversity of the region and how highland peoples navigate changes to their cultural landscape. In 2019, the program included over a dozen excursions to ethnic minority museums, night markets, Buddhist temples and mosques, along with three weekend-long trips to Hmong villages in northern Thailand, the region of Chiang Rai, and a Karen refugee camp. Secured funds from the university helped provide stipends to students to participate in the program. Although the program was cancelled for summer 2020 due to COVID-19, Will and Drs. Song and Waters plan to lead the program next summer.

Dr. Will Nitzky was awarded the university’s Outstanding Research Mentor Award in 2018/19. Since becoming a faculty member at Chico State, Will has spent countless hours mentoring and advising graduate and undergraduate students on their individual research and collaborative projects, including work on the impact of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, memorialization of 9/11 in California, 3D modeling as a museum studies pedagogical tool, access and the digitization of museum collections, Hawaiian history and genealogy, medicinal plant remedies of the Hmong community, and motherhood among the Hmong, decolonizing museums, and structural violence facing Latinx meat-packing workers. This is an honor that Dr. Nitzky holds in high regard for his continued efforts in being not just an instructor and scholar, but a leader in inspiring and facilitating our students personal, academic, and career achievements.

Matthew O’Brien
Faculty since 2015
first year in 18 years where he was not in the field.

To fill his suddenly wide-open summer, Dr. O’Brien built a shed, salvaged a dying lawn, and spent most of the time social distancing from his home with Jaime, his wife, and his two dogs. He also enrolled in Go Virtual workshop to improve his online teaching skills that hopefully improved his courses this fall. He was also able to finish up some writing projects that included two book chapters as lead author as well as two more as co-author. This upcoming spring, he and his co-author will turn their attention to writing up their manuscript on their Mongolian fieldwork. Overall, he cannot wait to return to campus with all of our students as soon as is safely possible.

Stacy reports that she and Jim are doing fine during these COVID-19 times. They continue to live half the year in Trinidad, California, on the coast in northern Humboldt County, and the other six months at their flower farm in sunny Fallbrook in northeastern San Diego County. Prior to the arrival of the pandemic, they had a chance to travel abroad.

In May of 2018, Stacy and Jim, and Jim’s son Jonny traveled to Japan on a UCLA alum travel program. Stacy writes, “I’ve always loved Japan and was there for a brief visit in 1976 on a tour with my family. This trip I was astounded to see an abundance of American and European tourists. In the 70s, Japan was much more insular and had far fewer Western tourists. Surprisingly, in Tokyo and Kyoto, one could get by on English only, relatively speaking.” The tour combined history, culture, food, and art, and involved travel by land through Tokyo and Kyoto, and by sea on a smallish French ship to a number of smaller port cities along the Sea of Japan, as well as a stopover in Ulsan, South Korea.

Also in 2018, Stacy’s article “Fertile Grounds?: Peyote and the Human Reproductive System” was published by Synergetic Press as part of the proceedings in the two-volume book, Ethnopharmacologic Search for Psychoactive Plants (50 years later). The publication was selected for the James A. Duke Botanical Literature Award by the American Botanical Council. Wade Davis was a reviewer for the
ESPD 50 publication. He contacted Stacy to let her know that he had also reviewed her book *Amada’s Blessings from the Peyote Gardens of South Texas* and really “loved it.” In his opinion, the book reflected solid scholarship, was sensitively written and is a valuable contribution to the literature. Stacy is still glowing over his rave review.

The next far-away trip for the intrepid travelers was in March, 2019 to Chile, where Stacy and Jim rendezvoused with an intimate group of international colleagues who also study plants and shamanism, some of whom they had not seen in close to 20 years. They all gathered in Pucón, Chile, a beautiful resort town in the Lakes District of Southern Chile, not far from the border with Argentina. This area is also the northern end of Patagonia. On the return to the capital city, Santiago, their colleagues introduced the group to staff members at the Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino and were given a behind-the-scenes tour of this state-of-the-art facility and its impressive collection of Pre-Colombian art along with its stunning exhibitions. Stacy and Jim returned to California on the evening of a full moon and the fall equinox in Chile. They flew through the night accompanied by the full moon and arrived to L.A. on the spring equinox in the U.S. because of differences in latitudinal seasons and longitudinal time. It was quite a unique experience. Stacy is currently writing an article on Huichol Shamanism for a special issue of the scholarly peer-reviewed *Boletín del Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino*, that will be guest edited by her colleague from Florida International University in Miami, Constantino Manuel Torres.

Also, in 2019, Stacy and Jim traveled to south Texas near the city of Laredo, to the home of Mrs. Amada Cardenas. There Stacy was interviewed and videotaped by Austin filmmaker Eugenio del Bosque for the documentary film *Peyoteros* that he is making about the Tejano Peyote dealers.

In October 2019, Stacy and Jim made their way to Mexico including to the Huichol Sierra where they spent time with friends and family. It’s unusual for them to be there in October, it was still raining, most of the people were busy tending their crops right before harvest. Stacy’s weaving teacher, Estela and her husband Andrés invited the two to their rancho up the mountain from the community of San Andrés where they care for their cattle and keep them from roaming the countryside eating corn crops. And upon Stacy’s request, Estela instructed her again on initiating a weaving project on her backstrap loom. It had been decades since she had woven, and Stacy said she was delighted to have a refresher course with her weaving friend and mentor. “It was like old times and we certainly enjoyed our time together. Jim appreciated scouring the nearby countryside looking for plants in bloom while Andrés worked away on making beaded art.”

In January, 2020, Stacy and Jim took another trip to Mexico, primarily to Guadalajara and the state of Nayarit. She explains “We wanted to be tourists for a change and see the sights, visit friends, and have a
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women in the industry, whereas Jim’s was on botanical aspects of Cannabis. The Economic Botany conference in Jamaica has been rescheduled for June 2021. Vamos a ver (We’ll see).

Presently, Stacy and Jim fondly look back on these journeys as they dream about the coming of post-COVID times and all the places they want to see on their “bucket list” before too long. Meanwhile they keep busy with their projects, along with gardening and enjoying the company of

their two tiger kitty girls, Pumpkin and Leona, that they adopted as kittens right before the pandemic struck. They have also enjoyed participating in a few of the Zoom events including the Anthropology Forum, and the 50th Anniversary of the Museum, Congratulations to Keith and Valene on a job well done, and kudos to Georgia, Will, Adrienne and

Stacy relays: “We went to Ixtlan del Rio, a little town that has very interesting archaeological ruins, and the nearby town of Jala where they grow the largest corn in all of Mexico. With the help of the local tourism office, we were taken to the home of Don Emilio, who has received awards for the large ears of corn he has grown. Jim even got some seeds to try to grow here. We went to San Blas—a beach town—and stayed in a magnificent hacienda-like hotel, went on a jungle boat ride, and looked up a family I had not seen in close to 30 years. We also went for a day trip to the lake Santa Maria del Oro, which fills the crater of a volcano and legend has it connects underground to the ocean.”

On the way to Puerto Vallarta, Stacy and Jim went to another beach town - Chacala, that Stacy had not visited since the 1980s. Stacy writes: “We ate delicious fresh fish smoked with mangrove wood and witnessed a spectacle of drunk people hiring a band to play Sinaloan music for the enjoyment of a sizeable group of people, I think they were cartel members. It was creepy, the local police watched as they stood in the distance but fortunately there was no violence.”

At the end of May 2020, Stacy and Jim were planning on taking a trip to Jamaica to attend The Society for Economic Botany conference which featured Cannabis as one of its research themes. A Jamaican anthropologist who is a member of the society was offering an ethnobotanical tour of the Island before the conference, which they were very much looking forward to. They submitted paper proposals addressing their research on Cannabis. Stacy’s paper focused on the Cannabis culture of Humboldt County, particularly the role of

wonderful, relatively “cushy” trip with few challenges or hardships. We flew to Guadalajara and stayed five days in a hotel right in the historic center. There we saw the tourist sights, visited with friends who live in Guadalajara, and then traveled by bus through the state of Nayarit visiting places that we had not been to in many years because we are usually in too much of a hurry to get to the Huichol Sierra and back.”
The pandemic garden is real! On March 20 when it really sunk in everyone would be home all spring and summer working from her guest bedroom/office, Adrienne decided to plant the garden beds which had been dormant since Hannah left for college eight years ago. As it turns out, backyards are a real luxury and were sources of solace during these long months of isolation. What fabulous results she had. Chard, tomatoes, okra, cucumbers galore! And a surprise volunteer cantaloupe vine that yielded four amazing melons. Additionally, the garden turned out to be a source of inspiration for creative ideas with the museum summer camp too. The backyard adventure Zoom camp drew on Darwin’s study of earthworms, EO Wilson’s research on ants, and Annie Dillard’s ecological experiences at Tinker Creek. As the world took a forced pause, we could remember to appreciate the simplicity and complexity of the natural world right from our backyards. The ability to observe and wonder about nature is what she also hopes to cultivate with young people who both teach and attend museum summer camps. These days of quarantine, wildfires and social distance have forced us all to dig deep into our coping reservoirs. She dug deep into her garden.

Charlie Urbanowicz 1973-2009

Charlie and Sadie write that at the time of this writing, they were in their 225th day of self-isolation. Time does fly (it can, nevertheless, drag in self-isolation) and they hope that all readers of Clan Destiny have taken precautions and all of their loved ones are safe and well in dealing with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, or COVID-19, as previous readers know, after Charlie retired in December 2009, he and Sadie would often spend weeks providing lectures on cruises throughout the Pacific but as a result of COVID-19, a 2020 lecturing cruise was cancelled as well as two lecturing cruises scheduled for January and February of 2021. Charlie, however, is now scheduled for a Smithsonian cruise in French Polynesia in November 2021 (which will be his third assignment for that institution). He and Sadie are also being considered for a lecturing cruise from California to Australia in January 2022; may a vaccine be quickly developed for everyone around the world!

In Chico, their son Tom is employed in a wide-variety of web-based businesses, but a part-time teaching position he had in the College of Business at CSU, Chico, was eliminated. Tom’s wife, Julia, graduated and passed the California state boards and became a Registered Nurse in January 2020. Since then, Julia has been employed in a variety of nursing positions. Charlie and Sadie’s grandchildren, Lizi and Andrew, are both well.
Andrew graduated from UCLA he decided to stay in Los Angeles and pursue his computer interests while Lizi moved back to Chico, into her own place, and is doing some writing and manuscript editing.

Sadie's volunteer work at the Chico Discovery Shoppe was put on hold as a result of COVID-19, but she has become a Zoom-expert, tutoring 4th grade students in a "Reading Pals" program of the Chico Unified School District. Charlie continues to read and take notes and does research for future cruises. While Charlie and Sadie had no cruise lecturing assignments in 2019, they did take a non-lecturing cruise from New Jersey to Boston then to Quebec, Canada. The stop in Boston allowed them to visit the celebrated Museum of Fine Arts which has Paul Gauguin's most famous painting, D'ou Venons Nous / Que Sommes Nous / Où Allons Nous, or Where Do We Come From / What Are We / Where Are We going. Charlie lectures about Gauguin, an amazing, controversial, and prolific individual.

In January 2020, Charlie and Sadie lectured on a cruise from California to New Zealand, which included a port-of-call in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, where they lived in 1970 when Charlie began his Ph.D. research! Things have certainly changed in fifty years with many more automobiles, traffic circles, and Internet access!

Charlie is considering a 2022 "Anthropology Forum" presentation (Zoom or otherwise) entitled "Fifty Years An Anthropologist" since it will be fifty years since he was awarded the Ph.D. in Anthropology. If the Forum schedule can't fit Charlie in for 2022, he can use a similar title and some of the same material in 2023, fifty years after he and Sadie first came to Chico!

Finally, as a result of COVID-19, Charlie and Sadie had their first summer and winter gardens! Life does go on and Charlie can only repeat what he has written several times, well before self-isolation: time does fly and enjoy every moment with those that you love. Love is what is important.

What can I say about the pandemic. It's made us a little more creative, think about others, and time to reflect. I love saving $ on makeup and the 3-month-to-a-gallon on gas. Don't miss eating out (especially with the anthros every month), visiting relatives and friends and of course shopping! In the beginning I purged a lot of papers (although it does not look like it in the back bedroom/office but sure felt good), read a couple of books (which I almost never did at home as I receive a ton a magazines) and did some other purging (clothes, stuff, etc.). We now bring take out food home and have lots of meetings via Zoom.

Husband Dan is well along with our two dogs, but all are getting older and showing it. Did make a lot of trips to our property in Warner Valley west of Chester during the summer but it was not fun after the first trip as there was smoke up there too. We
would go home for a couple of weeks and there was smoke there too. What a terrible time this year for fires, smoke and orange sun! Vehicles always dirty and covered in ash. And some fires were much closer to our homes.

In my favorite organization, Business and Professional Women, we held our state annual meeting postponed from May to October and scheduled for three days via Zoom. I am no longer the State’s parliamentarian. I needed a break after serving as such for the past three years. Our Friends of the Library in Orland meet again now, but masked and outside. Still have housekeeper, which is a blessing and feel fortunate that we were able to give her some of our stimulus $ (she’s a single mother of two young boys) and to some local charities. Probably won’t have family holiday dinners this year and will be mailing presents to the nieces and nephews.

We have not been sick (only allergies) nor fallen this year. Get eyes checked every six months. Got two hair cuts each in the last six months.

A/C went out in June. In April Dan’s 99-year-old father passed away. This should bring you up to date about us. Hope everyone else is also well and safe.

Lisa Westwood, RPA, has been continuing to engage in efforts to promote historic preservation of space heritage. After publishing her recent book, *The Final Mission: Preserving NASA’s Apollo Sites* in 2018 (University Press of Florida), she transitioned into a campaign of public education through public lectures, advocacy, and media appearances leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing that included an interview on National Public Radio’s *Blue Dot* radio program.

When she isn’t teaching online courses in archaeology, anthropology, and cultural resources management, she serves as Vice President and Director of Cultural Resources for ECORP Consulting, Inc., working in her field to manage cultural resources and archaeological sites through a complex legal framework. Lisa fills whatever spare time she has left with taking guitar lessons, kickboxing, and doing CrossFit.

Archaeologist Dr. Carly Whelan joined the department in fall of 2016. She serves as Director of the Northeast Information Center and the Archaeology Laboratory. Since arriving at Chico, Dr. Whelan has launched a research program focused on the prehistoric acorn economy of California. Before contact, California was the most densely populated and linguistically diverse region north of the Valley of Mexico. But unlike the agricultural Mesoamerican and Mississippian societies, the people of California subsisted
exclusively on wild plant foods. By using economic principles to examine the acorn subsistence system, Dr. Whelan hopes to shed light on how it was able to support the large, settled populations of prehistoric California, and break down the long-held association between complex societies and agriculture.

Dr. Whelan’s recent research has included an examination of the practice of long-distance transport of acorns across the Sierra Nevada, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Hunter-Gatherer Research*. She has also examined the costs and benefits of acorn storage relative to other wild plant foods, the results of which appear in a recent volume published by the Center for Archaeological Research at Davis. Dr. Whelan’s current research includes an experiment with passive acorn leaching that is being carried out in collaboration with graduate and undergraduate students from the department and the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER).

Following retirement in 2017, P has enjoyed much more flexibility than while working. Thanks to the kindness of colleagues, he has continued to analyze forensic cases and continued participating in searches and recoveries. In fall 2018, with many other forensic anthropologists, he was deployed for three weeks while recovering Camp Fire fatalities. For a week in the fall 2019, he served as an instructor in Mexico’s inaugural forensic anthropology training program, which was funded by the International Red Cross. That week of teaching was more than enough to remind him what his Chico colleagues face for 15 weeks each semester. COVID concerns have limited his laboratory work and prevented his participation on searches.

When COVID hit hard in March 2020, he and Judy were touring Louisiana, eating great Cajun and Creole food, touring mansions, and enjoying fantastic weather.
Although he was scheduled to stay another two weeks to work on a prehistoric skeletal series at LSU, he wimped out and returned early to Chico. Since returning home, P and Judy have ventured out for biweekly grocery shopping, occasional trips to campus, and when the air quality permits, a little hiking.

Judy continued fixing the house, spending time in the garden, receiving accolades for her GIS/cartography labors, and fawning over her grandchildren from a distance. Following the Camp Fire, she adopted a one-eyed, fuzzy gray, longhaired rescue cat. Although it came with a name, Judy wanted to re-name it Smokey, presumably for its fur color, not for its escape from the wildfire. Fortunately cooler heads prevailed.

The Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) held a bake sale in 2019.
After earning his BA in Anthropology from Chico, Mike worked seasonally for the U.S. Forest Service as an archaeological technician while he completed an MA in Applied Anthropology from San Jose State University. Mike currently lives and works in Sisters, Oregon where he serves as an archaeologist for the Deschutes National Forest. Recent accomplishments include earning an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for leading a community-based restoration of an early twentieth century fire lookout.

James graduated with his MA in Anthropology in 2012. His thesis was published as a chapter in Violence and Warfare Among Hunter-Gathers (Allen and Jones, eds. 2014). From 2015 to 2018, James returned to academia as part of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics (KITP) to serve as the founding Residence Manager for the Charles T. Munger Physics Residence at UCSB. Since then James followed his passions and was recruited to become the copywriter for world renowned musical instrument tools and parts supplier Stewart-MacDonald (StewMac.com).

Simone, now retired from archaeology and bookselling/buying, is still volunteering at the Museum of North Idaho (42+ years) and is the current gift shop book buyer. She serves on the Museum Publications Committee and has co-authored two regional history books. She is also very active in the National and Idaho State Button Societies (bulletin editor). She has co-authored a book on black glass buttons and has just been named assistant editor of the NBS bulletin. She has been married over 40 years to Terry Kincaid and loves Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Dr. David E. Doyel remains happily retired in Scottsdale, Arizona. Archaeology remains his passion. He is still writing. He and wife Sharon travel several times a year; the last trip was to Mexico City and before that, Peru. He is pleased that Keith Johnson and Mark Kowta, his M.A. committee, are still in touch and that the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology is doing well. He remembers and treasures his friends, professors and education at CSUC, and the lovely campus. He sends best wishes to all, and plans to return for a visit.
Becca George completed her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in May 2020. She is an LOA at UNR. Dr. George completed two teaching certifications during her Ph.D. program, including the ACUE Certificate in Effective College Instruction. She was a recipient of the Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship during the 2018-2019 academic year and has won both teaching and research awards during her time at UNR. Dr. George has published three articles in the last two years and has several others in review for 2021.

Norene Goldberg
BA 1984

Norene graduated in 1984 with a BA in Anthropology. Since then, she has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area. She earned a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential and a MA in Special Education from San Francisco State University. She has been teaching grades K-8 for 31 years in both General and Special Education classrooms. She has traveled both in the U.S. and abroad. Norene plays the bass clarinet and tenor saxophone in community bands—with a special emphasis on jazz. She lives with her cat in a lovely condo near the Pacific Ocean.

Barry continues to teach, publish, and conduct research at Washington State University. Recent books include:

- **Social Learning and Innovation among Contemporary Hunter-Gatherers: Evolutionary and Ethnographic Perspectives.**

One recent paper that we published on cannabis use in the *Journal of Ethnobiology* was based in part on my MA from CSU, Chico (Roulette and Hewlett 2018). I have also been teaching graduate courses for the last several years in Arba Minch University in Ethiopia. The photo shows me with graduate students in January.

Finally, our family continues to grow. We now have nine wonderful grandchildren from our seven children.
Glynis Knox (Lumb)
BA 1996

She graduated from Chico State in 1996 with degree majors in Art and Anthropology. She felt there was promise in a combined focus. She travelled to Japan where she taught EFL to people ages 5 to 75. She received her TEFOL Certification from Cambridge University-Kobe in 2000 before returning to the U.S. just before 9/11. She married her now husband of 15 years and raised two sons before returning to school for Art Therapy and Counseling. She graduated with an MA in 2018, and is now a Registered Art Therapist in a growing private practice in Tigard, Oregon.

Johnny Moore
MA 1972

I am currently teaching cultural and physical anthro at Feather River College’s Incarcerated Student’s Program (State of California).

Mary L. (Williams) Maniery
BA 1976 MA 1979/2012

After over 40 years of working as a professional archaeologist, and 38 years of co-owning a CRM firm, Mary plans to retire in 2021. She plans to continue to participate in the field for those "fun" jobs that involve historical archaeology. She and Gary (husband) celebrated the marriage of their daughter (a geoarchaeologist!) in October 2020 and are surviving COVID-19 restrictions with lots of walks, experimenting with new recipes, and driving up to the mountains for breaks.

Glynis Knox (Lumb) BA 1996

Mary L. (Williams) Maniery BA 1976 MA 1979/2012

Johnny Moore MA 1972

Shona Nelson BA 1992

Shona graduated from Chico State in 1992. She quickly got a job in a Microbiological/Food Testing Company and stayed there for two years. She left the company and started working at The Clorox Company. She worked in the R&D facility in the Home Cleaning division formulating Cleaning Products such as Pine-Sol, Clorox Clean-Up, Clorox Wipes and 409. After 20 years, she made a career

I teach all three semesters via U.S. mail. I am still an active Flight Instructor. I handed over my AJF Sugarpine Aviators Martial Arts dojo to my lead Black Belt last year.

The photo shows me and my wife of 49 years, Judy at Johnsville near Plumas Eureka Park

Mary L. (Williams) Maniery BA 1976 MA 1979/2012

Johnny Moore MA 1972

Glynis Knox (Lumb) BA 1996

Shona Nelson BA 1992
change and is now working in the Regulatory Department working in the Good Laboratory Practices division. She likes to hike and loves to go camping.

**Sarah Heigho Nunes**

MA 1984

Sarah has been retired since March of 2017. She occasionally works part-time for Koff & Associates, a human resources consulting firm. Volunteer activities are temporarily on hold while sheltering in place, but she continues to hike and bike regularly at local parks with her husband John.

**Arlene Ward**

BA 2004

Ms. Ward’s CSUC experience opened an avenue to share her contemporary perspective of her Native American heritage as a member of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria to fellow Anthropology and Museum Studies students and instructors.

After her 2004 graduation, many opportunities came to Ms. Ward: as guest curator for a 2005 display of local Native American cradleboards with the Chico Museum-hosted traveling exhibit, *Precious Cargo: California Indian Cradleboards and Childbirth Traditions*; for the 2005 *Bidwell Park Centennial* to interpret Native America relationship with Big Chico Creek and surrounding lands of Bidwell Park; the 2006-07 CSUC Museum Studies student exhibit, *Maidu: A Sense of Place*; and ultimately, curating 2014-15 Chico Museum exhibit on the cultural heritage, traditions, and history of the Mechoopda people, *Mikćapdo: This is Our Home, Here We Remain*.

Arlene also collaborated on interpretive panels with the Chico Creek Nature Center, Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park (Visitor Center), Mendocino National Park (Nome Cult Walk), and the Butte County Resource Conservation District (Lookout Point) as well as a KVIE ViewFinder episode of Street Signs (Mechoopda Street, Chico).

A highlight of Ms. Ward’s efforts to bridge communication and understanding between the broader population and the Mechoopda people culminated in a 2008 Memorandum of Understanding, a first in California, between the California State University, Chico and a sovereign Native American Indian Nation, the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, establishing a commitment for a mutually beneficial collaboration into the 21st century. Ms. Ward was hired by the Mechoopda Tribe in 2005 as Cultural Coordinator and appointed
as Repatriation Coordinator overseeing the return of ancestral bones from agencies and local farmers to be reburied once again. She became the Executive Administrative Assistant to the governing Tribal Council until her retirement in 2017. Ms. Ward is a former Tribal Chairperson. Ms. Ward was honored to serve on the University’s Alumni Association Board of Directors and the former University Advisory Board; the Far Western Heritage Associate Board of Directors, and the Northern Valley Indian Health Inc. Board of Directors. Arlene continues her research of family and Mechoopda tribal history and heritage hoping to tell the “rest of the story” from the Native American perspective.

Of note, Arlene graduated at the age of 55. Arlene has two adult children, Adam and Sara, and two grandchildren, Bella and Cael. Her father, Luther LaVerne “Cookie” Clements, is the oldest living Mechoopda member at age 95. She says, “I am truly blessed.”

Image courtesy of Jason Halley.
The earth lost a grande dame when Claire R. Farrer passed away in September 2020. She was a dynamic intellect at CSU, Chico from 1985 to 2003 and was named "outstanding professor" in 1993-94. Before coming to Chico, Claire was Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign. She obtained her undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley and her Master of Arts and doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation Play and Inter-ethnic Communication: A Practical Ethnography of the Mescalero Apache was the beginning of a career specialization. Claire, better known as Ginger to colleagues, students, and friends, was a cultural anthropologist who focused on folklore, ethnoastronomy, and ethnography. I was blessed to take several classes from Ginger in the 1990s and have her as my major professor in my interdisciplinary master’s thesis. We remained friends through her last days. She loved talking about the deer that visited her place in Colorado, reminiscent of her home in Paradise. After the Camp Fire she worried about Paradise, and I would soothe her concerns with stories of taking apples, acorns, and birdseed to create a little oasis in the charred landscape.

Dr. Farrer’s professional skills were widely recognized. Among her accomplishments: Award for Ethnoastronomy of the Mescalero Apache by American Council of Learned Societies, New York, NY, 1984; Multiple listings as a noteworthy anthropologist, folklorist, educator in Who’s Who of American Women; Visiting Professor, Seminarie Voor Antropologie, Rijksuniversiteit-Gent, Belgium 1990; The Hulbert Endowed Chair in Southwest Studies at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, spring 1997; Chair of the Victor Turner Prize Committee that chooses an outstanding ethnography on behalf of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology 2002; National Endowment for the Humanities/Henry Jack Gray Distinguished Visiting Professor of Humanities at the University of Hartford, Connecticut 2002-2003; "Outstanding Scientist for 2002" by the International Biography Centre of
Cambridge, England (where anthropology is considered a science); and the Joseph Gordon Prize in Southwest Studies, for a significant body of work on the southwest, 2004.

Ginger’s ethnographic fieldwork with the Mescalero Apache resulted in two books: Living Life’s Circle: Mescalero Apache Cosmovision and Play and Inter-Ethnic Communications and Thunder Rides a Black Horse: Mescalaro Apaches and the Mythic Present. Her field work for Living Life’s Circle transpired over 15 years, guided by Bernard Second, a singer and medicine man, who helped her recognize how sensitive astronomical observation guided a dominant metaphor in Mescalaro life: living within a larger circle. Thunder delved into a four day and night Mescalaro Apache girls’ puberty ceremony, which shaped Ginger’s thinking about old myths and legends and how they informed contemporary, everyday actions and beliefs. Ginger’s relationship with the Mescalaro Apache continued to the very end. Ginger’s contribution to anthropology is clear. A greater gift, perhaps not as well known, was her guidance and gifts of herself to students, especially women, and her commitment to Native American rights. From what I experienced and observed, she touched thousands of people’s lives, and I believe many of those people took what they absorbed from her and became passionate about contributing to a better world. She is sorely missed, but never forgotten.
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